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501.38519CC2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: H. TANAKA
Serial No.: 10/644,777
Filed: August 21, 2003
For: SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE
Group: 2816
Examiner: T. CUNNINGHAM

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
POB 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 13, 2004

Sir:

In reply to the outstanding Office Action, dated June 23, 2004, the following responsive remarks to the election of species requirement made are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

The requirement made by the Examiner, namely, to elect a single disclosed species from the three (3) listed on page 2 of the Office Action is noted. Accordingly, applicants, through their undersigned representative, provisionally elect species A in which claims 1-11 are readable thereon.

Although the Examiner makes reference to Fig. 3 of the drawings, the subject matter covered by claims 1-11 are especially readable on the embodiment of Fig. 5 of the drawings, although not limited thereto. Accordingly, for purposes of this response, the provisional election is to be considered as also being directed to species of Fig. 5 of the drawings and that

an examination of claims 1-11 be given which are readable thereon. That is, since group A claims, claims 1-11, are more specifically related to the embodiment of Fig. 5 of the drawings, the provisional election made is also to be construed as covering the embodiment in Fig. 5 of the drawings.

Incidentally, it is noted that all of the claims are directed to a semiconductor circuit setting forth a MOSFET voltage generating scheme containing also charge pump circuits, which, it is submitted, would lead to a substantial amount of overlapping with regard to a state-of-the-art search directed thereto. Therefore, even though a technical case can be made for dividing the claims on the basis of the various disclosed embodiments, such as effected on page 2 of the presently outstanding Office Action, the Examiner is urged, nonetheless, to examine all of the presently pending claims. According to USPTO practice and as set forth in MPEP 803:

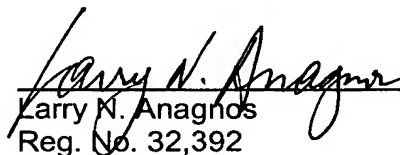
"If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions."

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, examination of not only claims 1-11 directed to the provisionally elected group A species reading on at least Fig. 5 of the drawings but, also, with regard to the remaining claims even though they may be readable on non-elected species. Of course, should the Examiner maintain his position on this matter, examination is accordingly requested on claims 1-11 directed to the elected group A.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in

connection with the filing of this paper, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli,
Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Dep. Acct. No. 01-2135 (501.38519CC2), and
please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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